

CLEAN VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

October 17, 2002

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 6, 26-37, 41-43, and 45-46.

Please amend claims 1, 7, 9, 18, 44 and 47 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A mower head comprising:
a deck having at least three sides and at least
one side wall depending from said deck;
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to
said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said
deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said
blade; and
a guard assembly comprising:
an actuating member mounted on said deck,
a guard attached to said actuating member
and pivotally attached to said deck via a hinge which is
mounted to two of said at least three sides and extends at
an obtuse angle in relation to two of said at least three
sides of said deck, and
a flap depending from said guard and
movable in relation to said guard, said flap being
oriented in a plane spaced from a plane of said guard.

7. (Twice Amended) The mower head of claim 1
wherein said actuating member is mounted on said deck at
a location spaced from said hinge.

9. (Twice Amended) A mower head comprising:
a deck having at least three sides;
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to
said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said
deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said

blade; and

a guard assembly comprising:

an actuating member mounted on said deck,
a hinge extending between and mounted to

10 two of said at least three sides of said deck at an angle
with respect to said two of said at least three sides,

a guard attached to said actuating member
and pivotally attached to said deck via said hinge, and

a flap which depends from said guard and is

15 movable in relation to said guard, said flap being
oriented in a plane spaced from a plane of said guard.

18. (Thrice Amended) A mower head comprising:

a deck comprising:

at least four sides, and

three side walls, one depending from each
of three of said at least four sides, wherein two of said
three side walls are rigid;

at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to
said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said
deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said
blade; and

a guard assembly comprising:

an actuating member mounted on said deck,

a hinge mounted to and extending at an
angle in relation to two adjacent ones of said at
least four sides of said deck,

a guard attached to said actuating member
and pivotally attached to said deck via said hinge, and

a flap which depends from said guard and is
movable in relation to said guard, said flap being
20 oriented in a plane spaced apart from a plane of said
guard.

E5

44. (Amended) The mower guard of claim 1, wherein said angle is formed between about 12 o'clock and 2'oclock positions in relation to the front side of said deck.

E6

47. (Amended) The mower guard of claim 9, wherein said angle is formed between about 12 o'clock and 2 o'clock positions in relation to the front side of said deck.

Please add new claims 48 and 49:

48. (New) A mower head comprising:

a deck having a longitudinal axis, at least three sides including a forward side and at least one side wall depending from said deck;

5 at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to said deck on a rotational axis extending through said deck, said deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said blade; and

a guard assembly comprising:

10 an actuating member mounted on said deck,

a guard attached to said actuating member and pivotally attached to said deck via a hinge which extends at an obtuse angle in relation to two adjacent ones of said at least three sides of said deck, including said forward side, wherein said guard is located on said forward side and an adjacent side such that said longitudinal axis extends near a side edge of said guard, and

15 a flap depending from said guard.

49. (New) A mower head comprising:

a deck having five sides, four of which are perpendicular in relation to each other and a fifth side

AS

which is oriented at an obtuse angle in relation to its adjacent sides;

5 at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to said deck on a rotational axis extending through said deck, said deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said blade; and

 a guard movably attached to said deck fifth side via a hinge which extends parallel to the deck fifth side.